

*Celebrating*  
**100**  
*Years*

# **KERN COUNTY FARM BUREAU**

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Executive Director

December 9, 2014

*Sent via Email*

Janice H. Zinky, P.G.  
Oil and Gas Monitoring Unit Chief  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

[janice.zinky@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:janice.zinky@waterboards.ca.gov)

Dear Ms. Zinky,

On behalf of 1,400 agricultural members of Kern County, we would like to emphasize how important the oil industry is to California, providing thousands of jobs and millions in tax revenue for Kern County. Agriculture depends on the abundant supply of oil and gas to produce food for the nation. This partnership between agriculture and oil is crucial to the success of a functioning and thriving economy here in Kern County.

Kern County Farm Bureau appreciates the workshops provided throughout the state in regards to learning more about SB4. Recently, we participated in a local workshop where we spoke on behalf of agriculture and the importance of regulations in both industries in order to protect our groundwater basin. However, we do not support or would ever want an industry of producers to be over regulated and burdened with regulations that make doing business so costly that profitability is compromised to the point that jobs are lost and the strength of the overall industry is reduced.

Kern County Farm Bureau would like to recommend combining the monitoring wells for SB4 with irrigated lands. This would allow for both surface owner and the mineral owner to work jointly to locate one well for both requirements thus:

- Duplications of wells would be eliminated
- Joint cost savings
- No additional lost of surface for additional monitoring wells
- More efficient
- Less "straws" into the aquifer means less opportunity for contamination

The ability to allow for existing monitoring wells to be used for both irrigated lands and SB 4 is crucial to both our industries in attempts to keep the cost low. It is our hope that the monitoring data be provided to the surface owner for review.

Thank you again for the efforts you put forth through your workshops, we appreciate the opportunity to be a part of this process and have our voice heard.

Sincerely,



Greg Wegis  
President